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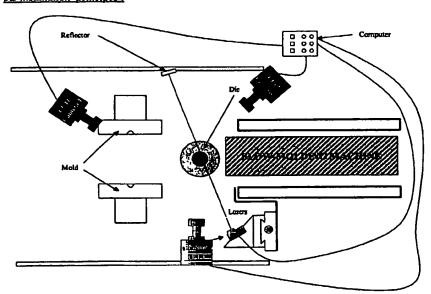
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(54) Title: POLYMER PROCESSABILITY EVALUATION THROUGH ON-LINE IMAGE PROCESSING

3D installation principle:



(57) Abstract: This invention discloses the use of one or three cameras equipped with a charge coupled device (CCD) sensor and of laser detectors for characterizing respectively in two or three dimensions, the behavior of an extrudate at the exit of a die, said CCD camera(s) being synchronized with a flash by the laser detectors.

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C 7 B29C47/92 B29C B29C49/78 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) **B29C** IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Α US 4 755 127 A (BECKER BERND) 1-12 5 July 1988 (1988-07-05) the whole document Α US 6 258 301 B1 (KAPPEN-FEUERHERM ROLF ET 1-12 AL) 10 July 2001 (2001-07-10) the whole document US 5 840 223 A (KAPPEN-FEUERHERM ROLF ET 1-12 Α AL) 24 November 1998 (1998-11-24) the whole document EP 0 562 202 A (KAO CORP ; TAHARA MACHINERY Α 1 LTD (JP)) 29 September 1993 (1993-09-29) column 38, line 10 - line 23; figures Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 17/10/2003 10 October 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA **Authorized officer** European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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